

health related taxes, and while hospitals and clinics around the country continue to shutter their doors.

A brighter future is on the horizon with the health care bill now stalled in committee. Central to this bill is its public insurance option, which as the President said, is designed to keep the large insurance companies honest. And as my friend Michael Moore documented in his acclaimed film "Sicko" we cannot always trust our insurance companies. The Public Option, similar to Medicare, will provide a publicly driven health care system, unique to the U.S. and separate from what is in place in any other country. The program will ensure: (1) Early and periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment; (2) Case management for chronic diseases; (3) Dental and mental health services; (4) and even language access services.

Though this health care plan solves many of our nation's health care woes, there are still more improvements that are needed. And I believe that the Democratic leadership is open to good ideas to improve this legislation, improvements from the Progressive Caucus, from the Blue Dogs, from the New Dems, and even from the Republicans.

One of the ideas that I hope to work with Chairman RANGEL, Health Subcommittee Chair STARK, Chairman WAXMAN and our leaders to address are ways to allow for the spread of good serving physician owned hospitals, many of which are caring for those with little to no insurance who would otherwise go underserved populations. And just what is a physician owned hospital . . . as its name implies, it's a hospital that has been started by, purchased by, or in some cases invested in by physicians. While some fear that such hospitals will allow physicians to skim off high end treatment and ignore routine procedures, I believe these concerns focus on only the few bad apples and not the lot of physicians who believe in their oath not to harm and to place people over profit.

So where do we stand today with physician owned hospitals. Under the current version of the health reform bill, 104 physician owned hospitals under development, 42 of which are scheduled to come on line by the end of 2010, will have to shut down. These 104 hospitals at risk represent more than 20,000 new jobs which will be lost in 21 states, over 40 in my home state of Texas. At least \$5 billion in current investments will be lost. It will also affect hospitals that were built to serve working men and women with little or no insurance. I and other Democrats and Republicans urge the leadership to change the bill by eliminating the retroactive date in the bill and "grandfather" all the existing hospitals with physician ownership, including the 104 hospitals under development.

In addition to threatening physician owned hospitals under development, the current bill also limits growth of existing physician owned hospitals. Of the 223 physician hospitals now in operation in 32 states, only three would qualify to apply to the Secretary of HHS for permission to expand. The remainder of the hospitals would have future growth frozen and would likely close because they could no longer be responsive to the medical needs of patients, the community and physicians.

My solution is to eliminate the conditions for growth in section 1156 and the HHS application process, and allow "grandfathered" physi-

cian owned hospitals, including projects under development that qualify for the grandfather provision, to expand and respond to the expanded needs of the communities they serve.

Finally, the current bill repeals the whole hospital exception in the Stark law, thus prohibiting physicians from investing in new hospitals that were not grandfathered. This provision aims to discourage entrepreneurship and risk taking in health care. However, I believe that there are doctors who can do good and do well at the same time. As such, I urge the leadership to amend the exception to allow physicians to invest in acute general care hospitals, hospitals that serve a significant population of the uninsured, or hospitals on the verge of bankruptcy where physicians are the only interested investors.

Such was the case for St. Josephs Medical Center in my district. St. Joseph Medical Center is the first and only hospital in Downtown Houston—a metropolitan area that has grown to over 4 million. In August 2006, over 80 medical staff members out of the 500 on staff, elected to purchase a stake in the hospital to keep it from closing. Because of this partnership, St. Joseph Medical Center remains today as a viable institution, caring for hundreds of thousands of patients each year through the various services of this general, acute care, inner-city hospital. Nearly 5,000 new Houstonians are born annually at this hospital—the first maternity hospital in Houston.

St. Josephs remains the only hospital in Downtown Houston, and without it hundreds of thousands of individuals each year would not have a convenient place to go for their inpatient and outpatient care. With two medical towers adjacent to the campus, physicians' offices are close by, making this a one-stop shop for many who come downtown for their healthcare. Bus lines, rail lines, and two major freeways run right past the hospital, making it even more convenient for the populations that surround it—many of whom have limited or no transportation options.

This model of physician partnership works and in addition, adds 1,800 full time jobs to the Houston economy, pays millions in taxes and provides 40 million dollars of uncompensated care each year, and continues the traditions of the Sisters of Charity—to provide quality healthcare for all. This model saves hospitals in underserved areas and is part of the solution to the health care system problems, not the cause of them. Only to serve as "buyers of last resort" in communities that have a critical access problem and are otherwise providing good care to patients across the country. Thus, I look forward to working with the leadership to reward, not punish, such physician owned hospitals.

Other good proposals that I'm recommending are:

Grants to high schools and middle schools to increase health care professionals, particularly those in underserved communities;

Providing incentives for the development of Community Health Care Centers that are housed in healthy green buildings;

Tax credits for employers who not only offer good health care benefits but encourage their employees to utilize these benefits;

A pilot program to study and demonstrate the benefits of proven alternative medical techniques and medicines; and

A program to study this ongoing problem of people who seek to address depression or en-

hance athletic performance by abusing prescription drugs.

Madam Speaker, I believe that these are good proposals and if adopted will improve the outstanding work done by our leaders. Furthermore, while I seek changes in the health reform bill, I'm not at all about to stand in the way of change, my goal is to inspire change. Moreover, I'm not going to succumb to scare tactics aimed to put politics over people, people who deserve health reform now, not next week, next month, or next year.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. HELLER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 3288—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Federal Highway Administration—Surface Transportation Priorities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Nevada

Address of Requesting Entity: 2050 Villanova Dr., Reno, NV 89520.

Description of Request: \$500,000. This funding will be used for the Meadowood Interchange project that will mitigate severe current and future traffic congestion occurring on I-580/US 395 and the adjacent surface arterials in the primary commercial retail district for the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area.

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Federal Highway Administration—Federal Lands (Public Lands Highways)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nevada Department of Transportation

Address of Requesting Entity: 1263 South Stewart Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Description of Request: \$1,000,000. This funding will be used for the U.S. 50 State Realignment project. This project involves the Realignment of U.S. Highway 50 in the Stateline, Nevada Corridor. The project will look to provide operational improvement and pedestrian and transit improvements in the heavily congested Stateline corridor

Requesting Member: Congressman DEAN HELLER

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 2001 E. Plumb Ln., Reno, NV 89502

Description of Request: \$263,000. This funding will be used for the acquisition and installation of an Approach Surveillance Radar (ASR-11) at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. The Reno-Tahoe International Airport and five other airports in the region are all served by an existing Approach Surveillance

Radar (ASR-8) that has been in place for 16 years and is two generations old. The existing radar is located at the absolute lowest point of the valley which reduces its airspace coverage for all six airports in the region. An FAA study identified a site north and at a higher elevation than the existing radar site which would allow air traffic controllers to track aircraft movements longer and at lower altitudes than currently possible.

Requesting Member: Congressman Dean Heller

Bill Number: HR 3288

Account: Federal Transit Administration—Buses & Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Regional Transportation Commission of Washoe County, Nevada

Address of Requesting Entity: 2050 Villanova Dr., Reno, NV 89520

Description of Request: \$250,000. This funding will be for the Washoe County bus and bus facilities project which includes the replacement and expansion of the Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC) transit fleet including standard coaches and paratransit vehicles and the construction of additional park-and-ride facilities. New buses must be purchased to replace worn-out vehicles in the existing fleet, increase service on existing routes and initiate new service. These replacement vehicles will help the RTC to increase schedule reliability, reduce the cost of vehicles and increase transit ridership and fare box revenue.

CELEBRATING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 20, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, forty years ago today, millions of Americans and other people around the world, sat tuned in to the most advanced media device of the day, the television. Millions more, gathered around radios. While still others simply raised their heads and fixed their eyes to a common sight—the moon. Yet, on this day, 40 years ago, the moon was markedly different. For on that day, mankind, represented by a young 38-year-old American, Neil Armstrong, set foot on the moon.

On this day, 40 years ago, the country and the world were divided along many fronts. This country was reeling following a spate of high profile assassinations that took the lives of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Robert Kennedy. The world was divided by ideology, separated into blocs of countries aligned with the Soviet Union and those aligned with the west. Finally, this country was in the midst of a bitter conflict in Vietnam that robbed this country of the lives of thousands of young men and women.

Yet, despite these divisions, the nation and the world was united, united in the celebration of an achievement for mankind. And while the world had not yet seen the internet, the I-phone, or Twitter, we were all connected, connected by a single feat.

Today, forty years later, while there are still some sources of division, the world stands

today connected in a variety of ways. The step onto the surface of the moon left more than a mere foot print in the moon sand, it created a technological movement that has resulted in many of the devices that define our life today.

This feat happened because of the combined determination and diligence of an entire country. From the inspiration of a young President who challenged us to set our sights on the moon, scientists developed new materials, engineers manufactured innovative equipment, and factory workers assembled cutting edge transport crafts. Together, these Americans proved that by working together, toward a common purpose, there is nothing beyond our reach. It was true then, I have no doubt that that fact will remain true today.

President Obama has convened a commission to chart our next steps into space. The President is confronted with several choices. With soaring deficits facing our states and the looming costs of health care reform and energy reform before the nation, some may argue that we cannot afford such a risk.

Yet others realize the gains of that small step. Gains that created new innovations in agriculture, architecture, and even health care. The pacemaker is just one of the many life saving technologies that has resulted from that same small step.

Mr. Speaker, I urge President Obama to follow the lead of that young visionary President that preceded him 40 years ago. I urge him not to shy away from continuing the investment made by the past generation of Americans. I encourage the President to move ahead and continue the nation's investment in space exploration.

I am confident that the President will move forward. He's already shown his vision by recently appointing Marine Corps Major General Charles F. Bolden, Jr. as NASA Administrator. General Bolden graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968, nearly 20 years after the first Black to graduate from that institution, Wesley Brown.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, General Bolden accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. General Bolden was in flight school, when former Navy aviator, Neil Armstrong, landed on the moon. This feat kept General Bolden motivated and after two years of flight training, he was designated a naval aviator in May 1970. He flew more than 100 sorties into North and South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, in the A-6A Intruder between June 1972 and June 1973. Upon returning to the United States, General Bolden began a two-year tour as a Marine Corps selection officer and recruiting officer in Los Angeles, followed by three years at the Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California. During his free time, General Bolden returned to school to earn a Masters degree in Systems Management from the University of Southern California in 1977.

In June 1979, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School at Patuxent River, Maryland, and subsequently served as an ordnance test pilot and flew numerous test projects in the A-6E, EA-6B, and A-7C/E airplanes. As a pilot, he has logged more than 6,000 hours flying time.

General Bolden was selected as an astronaut candidate by NASA in 1980, and became an astronaut in August 1981. A veteran of four space flights, he has logged more than 680 hours in space, including 444 orbits of the

earth. General Bolden served as pilot on STS-61C (Space Shuttle Columbia, January 12–18, 1986) and STS-31 (Space Shuttle Discovery, April 24–29, 1990), and was the mission commander on STS-45 (Space Shuttle Atlantis, March 24, 1992–April 2, 1992), and STS-60 (Space Shuttle Discovery, February 3–11, 1994). During his first Discovery mission, General Bolden and his colleagues successfully deployed the Hubble Space Telescope while orbiting the earth from a record setting altitude of 400 miles. The second Discovery mission was the historic first joint U.S./Russian Space Shuttle mission with a Russian Cosmonaut as a crew member.

General Bolden also held two administrative posts at NASA during these years. Following the Challenger accident in 1986, he was named the chief of the safety division at the Johnson Space Center, overseeing safety initiatives in the return-to-flight effort. From April 1992 to June 1993, General Bolden served as Assistant Deputy Administrator for NASA.

In 1994, General Bolden returned to active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps as the Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. In July 1997, he was assigned as the Deputy Commanding General, I MEF, Marine Forces, Pacific. From February to June 1998, he served as Commanding General, I MEF (FWD) in support of Operation Desert Thunder in Kuwait. In July 1998 he was promoted to his final rank of Major General and assumed his duties as the Deputy Commander, U.S. Forces, Japan. General Bolden then served as the Commanding General, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, serving from August 9, 2000 until August 2002. He retired in August 2004.

Following retirement, General Bolden became active in the corporate sector. Since 2004, he has been the owner and CEO of Jack and Panther LLC, a privately-held military and aerospace consulting firm in my district of Houston, Texas. Having recently been confirmed by the Senate and assumed his post, General Bolden is the first Astronaut to lead NASA. As an Astronaut, General Bolden understands NASA's mission, its operations, and its most valuable resource, its personnel.

With a background of achieving in the face of obstacles, General Bolden is well positioned to help NASA define its role in the midst of our nation's fiscal crisis. Moreover, General Bolden in his new role as NASA Administrator has the potential of inspiring a new generation of young people, much like I and many others were inspired by Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong and Michael Collins forty years ago. I urge support for this resolution.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 24, 2009

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY 2010 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman GARY G. MILLER

Bill Number: H.R. 3138